

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 1, 2021

*Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.*

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

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**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy.

**Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,  
**help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways  
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

**Turn us again to you.**

**Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

Beloved people of God:  
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.  
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,  
there is always more than enough.  
Through Jesus, ✚ the bread of life,  
you are shown God's mercy:  
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**  
#487

*"What Feast of Love"* ELW

**\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray

**O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

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**FIRST READING—Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15**

*A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.*

<sup>2</sup>The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

<sup>4</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they

will follow my instruction or not.”

<sup>9</sup>Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” <sup>10</sup>And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. <sup>11</sup>The Lord spoke to Moses and said, <sup>12</sup>“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

<sup>13</sup>In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. <sup>14</sup>When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup>When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

Word of God. Word of Life

**Thanks be to God!**

## **SECOND READING—Ephesians 4:1-16**

*Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ’s one body.*

<sup>1</sup>I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

<sup>7</sup>But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. <sup>8</sup>Therefore it is said, “When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.”

<sup>9</sup>(When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. <sup>14</sup>We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” ELW page#172

The holy gospel according to the sixth chapter of John.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL — John 6:24-35**

*Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.*

<sup>24</sup>When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

<sup>25</sup>When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup>Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” <sup>28</sup>Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” <sup>30</sup>So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?” <sup>31</sup>Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” <sup>32</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” <sup>34</sup>They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

**MESSAGE**

Rev. Carl Bruhler

**HYMN OF THE DAY**  
ELW #618

*“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”*

(Vs. 1 &

2)

**BAPTISM OF AUGUST WILLIAM KEECH HOLM**

**\*THE PRAYERS**

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

You call your church to be the body of Christ. In baptism you claim us to be your sons and daughters. We give thanks today for August William as he is baptized and welcomed into your

church. Awaken all the baptized to the gifts you provide for carrying out the work of ministry. Where the church is divided, knit us together and restore the unity of the faith.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You command the clouds above and cause the wind to blow in the heavens. Watch over deserts and wilderness places. Regenerate rainforests, defend species at risk of extinction, and strengthen the work of conservation organizations. We pray for rain that is desperately needed for crops and for sustaining life. Watch over crews that are fighting to bring wildfires under control and comfort those who have lost homes, property and loved ones.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You summon leaders to respond to the needs of your people. Instill those who govern with patience when confronted with grievances and perseverance in seeking what promotes the well-being of the community. We pray especially for elected leaders in Washington DC, that they would seek compromise and govern with the best interests of all at heart.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You give us bodies and minds with amazing capabilities. We pray for athletes competing in the Olympic games in Tokyo, Japan, and for scientists and researchers striving to solve problems. Give us all the will to our very best, competing fairly and with respect for others.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You draw near to those who cry out for help. We pray for all who are struggling with issues of health, whether physical, mental or emotional. We pray especially for Zoe Thompson, Fred Wentzlaff, Charlie Schleeve, Allan Krattley brother-in-law of Rosalind Neal, Sophia Walker mother of Marie Walker, Pr. Dave Aaker and those we name silently in our hearts. Grant them your healing, comfort and strength. Feed those who are hungry, reassure those who are despairing, and accompany those who are imprisoned. Rain down the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You receive all who come seeking a sign of grace. Make this congregation a place of hospitality for those accustomed to rejection. To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere, prepare us to welcome them in the name of Christ.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You provide food that endures for eternal life. Sustain us each day with the bread of life until we are gathered with all the saints and feast together at your heavenly banquet.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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**WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray:

**Jesus, Bread of life,  
you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.  
Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.  
Make us to be what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world.  
Amen.**

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
Come!

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Jesus, Bread of life,  
we have received from your table  
more than we could ever ask.  
As you have nourished us in this meal,  
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.  
In your name we pray.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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**\*BLESSING**

The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
‡ be upon you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

#656

*“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”* ELW

2)

(Vs. 1 &

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Worship services can be viewed through our website [www.firstlutheranlesueur.org](http://www.firstlutheranlesueur.org) or through You Tube at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search First Lutheran Church Le Sueur MN.

**Baptized today** is August William Keech Holm son of Jessica & Daniel Holm. August's sponsors are Amber Novak, Jennifer Segler, Richard Keech and Dustin Holm. God's blessings upon August!

### **Wanted! Your Excess Produce for Hunger and Health:**

This summer on the last Sunday of July and all Sundays in the month of August, we are asking those with additional garden produce to bring their extras to First Lutheran Church. Those who are in need of produce may take what they like and could consider making a donation that will go toward funding supplies for our Global Health Ministries newborn kits that we plan to assemble for God's Work Our Hands day this fall. Any leftover produce will be brought as a donation to the Le Sueur Food Shelf. Let's work together to help eliminate food waste while helping alleviate local hunger and promote global health!

***GIANT Celebration Parade*** - For several years now we have asked the 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class to walk in the GIANT Celebration Parade, collecting food and monetary donations for the Le Sueur Food Shelf. It is a fun time together and a great way to help the food-insecure members of our community. This year the 2020 confirmands (10<sup>th</sup> graders) have also been invited to participate since they didn't get to do it last year when there was no parade due to COVID-19. If anyone else would like to walk in the parade you are welcome to join in! Plan to meet at church on Sunday, August 8 at 11:45 a.m. to prepare for the parade line-up. Bill Radloff will be coordinating this, pulling a trailer onto which the food collected for the LSFS will be placed.

Next weekend is the annual GIANT celebration. For our 9am Worship, we will have a guest preacher, Rev. Nancy Dreier, sister of Jim Barton, and the SonRise Band from Lake Crystal. Join us for this special worship opportunity and bring friends and neighbors.

First Lutheran Church

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Rev. Carl Bruihler

UNITED by Christ, God calls us to LOVE one another  
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

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